

**INFLUENZAL MENINGITIS SERUM.**

The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research,  
66th Street and Avenue A,  
New York

February 24, 1913.

Dear Dr. Brown:

We have been engaged for some time in the study of the treatment of influenzal meningitis with a specific anti-influenzal serum. The effects of the serum treatment in experimental influenzal meningitis are very satisfactory and we are now prepared to supply the serum made in the horse, in moderate quantities, to a selected number of physicians for use in human cases. The method of application is similar to that which is employed in the treatment of epidemic meningitis with the antimeningitis serum—that is, the antiinfluenzal serum is injected subdurally by lumbar puncture.

Would you kindly inform me whether you would like to have some of this serum on hand for use in suitable cases that may arise in your locality? The serum should, of course, be used only when a definite bacteriological diagnosis of influenzal meningitis has been made. It will be necessary, however, to apply it as early as possible in the course of the disease in order that good effects may be hoped for.

In the event that you accept this offer I should like you to make it known to physicians that you possess the serum and are willing and able to apply it in suitable cases. You may recall that this is the method we pursued originally with the antimeningitis serum. I wish to stipulate that copies of the histories of the cases in which the serum has been used should be returned to me as promptly as possible. You would, of course, be free to make any publication of the cases that you desired.

Yours very truly,  
(Signed) SIMON FLEXNER.

Dr. Philip King Brown, 350 Post Street, San Francisco, Cal.

February 28, 1913.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I am sure that we shall be more than glad to have the anti-influenzal serum in San Francisco. I will be glad to be responsible for the distribution and use of the serum according to your direction, and the supplying to you of full data in each case in which it is used.

Faithfully yours,  
(Signed) PHILIP KING BROWN.

Dr. Simon Flexner, The Rockefeller Institute, 66th St. and Ave. A., New York.

**BOOK REVIEWS**

**The Surgical Clinics of John B. Murphy, M. D.,** at Mercy Hospital, Chicago. Volume II, Number 1 (February, 1913). Octavo of 179 pages, illustrated. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1913. Published bi-monthly. Price per year: Paper, \$8.00; Cloth, \$12.00.

Contents: Open Treatment of Fractures; Osteitis of Femur; Luxation of Semilunar Cartilage; Floating Cartilage; Fecal Fistula Following Appendectomy; Medicolegal Relations of Physician and Patient (by Dr. W. C. Woodward); Tuberculosis of Knee: Arthrodesis (Treatment of Tuberculous Joints); Paget's Disease: Amputation of Breast; Acute Appendicitis; Abscess of Neck; Broad Ligament Abscess: Pyosalpinx; Cerebral Adhesions (Decompression); Fracture and Luxation of the Neck of the Humerus; Laminectomy; Congenital Pyloric Stenosis; Laminectomy Two Years After Injury; Hour-Glass Stomach.

**Medical Men and the Law.** A Modern Treatise on the Legal Rights, Duties and Liabilities of Physicians and Surgeons. By Hugh Emmett Culbertson, Esq., member of the Ohio and New York Bars; Contributing Editor to many Legal Publications. Octavo, 325 pages. Cloth, \$3.00 net. Lea & Febiger, Publishers, Philadelphia and New York, 1913.

While this volume presents an admirable abstract of the various statutes regulating the relations of the practicing physician and his patients, and though it is very enjoyable reading, there seems to be no field of practical application for the mass of information it contains. The reason for this seems to be, that instead of enunciating a definite code to which one can refer, the author has derived his material from the varying and ever complicating laws of all the states of the Union. This removes the book from the list of dependable references wherein one can seek a definite answer, because what may be the law in Georgia may not be in conformity with the statutes of Wisconsin, etc. However, for a good list of concise general definitions, for a rather complete abstract of practically all the points on which the medical man comes into contact with law, and for a well-digested broad outlook over the field of medico-legal relationship, this work is to be regarded as of some value.

G. H. T.

**"Theorie und Praxis der Innere Medizin,"** by Dr. Erich Kindborg of Bonn, published by S. Karger, Berlin, 1911.

There have been but two volumes of this work published. Volume I covers Circulation and Respiration; Volume II (1912) takes up Digestion and Metabolism. Without attempting to fulfil the task of estimating the comparative worth of the information contained in these volumes, the reviewer would rather attempt to convey some idea of the pleasure he has derived from the perusal of these delightful pages. Firstly, the scheme of presentation is like that of no other text-book that the present writer has seen. Each subject is introduced with a brief but comprehensive résumé of the embryology, anatomy and physiology of the organ or system under consideration. And these short discussions are complete with regard to all the important points in each branch; and what is more to the point, up-to-date in every particular. As a further means of refreshing the student's memory, the chemistry of the physiological processes is indicated in a clear and terse manner. Next in order comes the discussion of the microscopic anatomy and then the methods of examination and clinical diagnosis. At this point the diseases are discussed in the usual order, but even here the guiding mind of this really great teacher does not take anything for granted and the pathology of the tissues and organs is fully yet brightly introduced into the text. Even this does not complete the sum of the many thoughtful devices introduced to maintain the wonderfully complete co-ordination which is the keynote of Dr. Kindborg's contribution to the field of text-book compilation. Where drug treatment is mentioned, we are told of the chemistry of the active principles of the drugs employed. An additional illustration of the broadness with which the author has treated his theme lies in his enthusiastic advocacy of the appropriate surgical measures in all conditions where they are of advantage. And these surgical procedures are in turn not permitted to pass till they are described in a thoroughly comprehensive manner. It is to be hoped that the proximity of the reviewer will not give the impression that the books are at all verbose. On the contrary, this text-book is quite a model of concise yet complete exposition and serves in a way quite new to us to place in the reader's hand a text-book thorough, painstaking, complete and at the same time broadminded. There is only one point in the text